

## CUBA'S HISTORY.

Up to Date Information Regarding the Unfortunate Island.

## FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF RULE

By Spain Have Been Four Centuries of Misery—Graphic Sketch of the Riches of the Country—What the People Have Accomplished in the Way of Progress Has Been Through Their Own Efforts.

By Fidel G. Pierra, ex-secretary of the Pan-American Congress: Cuba is a rich country, prodigally endowed by nature. Some of her productions are unrivaled; tobacco, for instance. A hundred pounds of fine Vuelta Abajo cigar wrappers bring about \$300 more than the best of any other country. The principal productions are sugar, tobacco, coffee, cocoa, bananas, coconuts, wax, cedar, mahogany and other woods. Some years the total exports have amounted to \$80,000,000, of which some \$65,000,000 were obtained from molasses and sugar, and \$20,000,000 from tobacco in various forms.

The total population in Cuba before the present war began was composed of 1,633,000 souls—550,000 white Cubans, 600,000 colored Cubans and 483,000 Spaniards. Two hundred years after the conquest of Cuba, her population did not exceed 50,000 souls; one hundred years later it did not reach 200,000.

During her rule of 400 years, Spain has not taken a single step tending to the development of the country or to the well being of her people. Her centralized, complicated and inefficient administration, dominated by a blind spirit of routine, has always looked upon reform as a dangerous experiment. The Spanish government, unwilling and incompetent to act, has been a perpetual obstruction to all beneficial action, even in private matters.

For three centuries Cuba was condemned to neglect. Throughout the fourth, the mother country's management may be characterized in three words: "Violence, subjection and plunder." There was an uprising in 1523, another in 1553, uprisings in 1593, 1643, 1655, and the single step tending to the development of the country or to the well being of her people. Her centralized, complicated and inefficient administration, dominated by a blind spirit of routine, has always looked upon reform as a dangerous experiment.

The revolt in 1895 was prolonged ten years, and according to the official reports submitted to the Spanish government, cost 45,000 lives and over \$100,000,000. Spain lost by her own showing 30,000 men, and the greater portion succumbing to disease. Then, as now, the forces employed were more boys. The climate proved a thousand-fold more destructive to the invaders than the insurgents.

In those ten years 13,000 estates belonging to Cubans were confiscated. Between December 1, 1895, and November 13, 1895, no less than 4,227 political prisoners were executed and between March 1, 1892, and November 7, 1873, 4,672 persons were reported captured by the Spaniards, and nothing has ever been heard of their fate. These figures have been compiled from Spanish official documents.

The Spanish government has asserted that the Cuban people have been the political condition of the Cuban people previous to 1873, since then they have not only been allowed to send representatives to the Spanish cortes, but they have enjoyed many liberties—almost as many, they have said, as are enjoyed by the people of the United States. However, the electoral franchise is shown by the single fact that, although in every one hundred of the population there are only ten Spaniards against 90 Cubans, for every representative elected by the Cubans the Spaniards elect at least seven, and sometimes ten. In other words, the 1,450,000 Cubans are represented, when also given of France in ocean tonnage and Hamburg, her great seaport, is surpassed only by London and she has the largest single steamship company in the world. All this is the work of little more than twenty years and it grew out of almost nothing. Now the Germans demand a powerful navy to protect their magnificent mercantile marine and protect their domination, as happened to Spain and Holland.

Personal liberty in the sense that it is exercised by every individual in the United States has never been known in Cuba. The laws as they are enforced upon them are enforced upon the present uprising—do not permit freedom of locomotion. In the midst of profound peace and without process of law, Cubans were cast into prisons and deported. No Cuban, whether man, woman or child, can venture out of his house unless provided with a license—a government license—costing from twenty-five cents to \$50. Even beggars are not exempted. That is the law and the practice.

Cubans do not enjoy the right of holding public meetings. They may ask the authorities' permission to do so twenty-four hours in advance. It may or may not be granted. When granted, a public officer is present with power to discontinue the meeting whenever he deems it proper. Even associations are forbidden to hold general meetings. Such privileges have been withheld from the association of Planters and the Association of Artisans. If a Cuban wishes to hold a reception at his house, he must first obtain a license and pay for it.

The Cubans have no voice in the election of officers immediately over them. From the captain-general down, all the officials are appointed in Spain and the appointees are, of course, Spaniards.

The Cubans have neither voice nor vote in the imposition of the taxes or in the expenditures of the revenue. All that is done in Spain. They are taxed every year to the extent of from \$24,000,000 to \$20,000,000. Of this vast sum, only about \$700,000 has ever been appropriated for internal improvements in the island, for the construction of public buildings, repairs of roads, telegraph lines, harbor improvements, lighthouses, etc. It is notorious that rarely is one-half of the amount actually paid in that manner. The remainder is stolen.

During the last twenty-five years not one foot of highway has been constructed or one yard added to the telegraph lines. It is notorious that the fifth of the harbor of Havana is a mere strip of the beach of the city and even to that of the cities on the Atlantic coast of the United States. Of the sum raised by taxing Cuba, \$11,500,000 is employed to pay interest on the debt of Spain; \$7,000,000 to pay for the army and navy of Spain, and \$8,000,000 for salaries to Spanish civil employes in and out of the island. Out of

## Domestic Joy.

The charm of domestic joy will be preserved, if those parents, who fear the early death of one of their loved ones when attacked with a serious throat or lung trouble, resort at once to Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, a never-failing remedy. "I used Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup for my son, who was eight years old. He has been troubled with a bronchial cough since he was two and a half years of age, and I have tried everything, but found Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup does him the most good." Mrs. A. Gell, 217 Demott St., West Hoboken, N.J. Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup costs only 25 cents, and is cheaper than the dealer's big profit making substitute, because Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup always cures while the substitute does not.

## BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS.

Unpublished Letter in which General Jackson Describes the Fight.

January Century: The following is a hitherto unpublished letter written by General Jackson to Mr. James Monroe, a portion of the letter follows: "There was a very heavy fog on the river that morning, and the British had formed and were moving before I knew it. The disposition of the riflemen was very simple. They were told off in Nos. 1 and 2. No. 1 was to fire first, then step back and let No. 2 shoot while he reloaded. About 600 yards from the riflemen there was a great drainage canal running back from the Mississippi river to the swamp in the rear of the filled land on which we were operating. Along the bank of this canal, and in the fire of the few artillery pieces, I had near enough to them to get their range. But the instant I saw them I said to Coffee, whom I directed to hurry to his line, which was to be first attacked: 'By—, we have got them; they are ours!' Coffee dashed forward, and, riding along the line, called out, 'Don't shoot until you can see their belt buckles!' The British, thus formed, moved on at a quick step, without firing a shot, to within one hundred yards of the kneeling riflemen, who were holding their fire till they could see the belt buckles of their enemies. The British advance was executed as though they had been in parade. They marched shoulder to shoulder, with the step of veterans, as they were. At one hundred yards distance from our line the order was given: 'Extend column front! Double-quick, march! Charge!' With bayonets at the charge, they came on at a run. I own it was an anxious moment; I well knew the charging column was made up of picked troops of the British army. They had been trained by the duke of Angoulême, and had successfully held off the attack of Napoleon's marshals in the Spanish campaign.

My riflemen had never seen such an attack, nor had they ever before fought white men. The morning, too, was damp; the powder might not burn well. 'God help us!' I muttered, watching the rapid advance of the British. Seventy-sixty, fifty, nearly forty yards, were they from the silent kneeling riflemen. All of my men I could see was their long rifles rested on the logs before them. They obeyed their orders well; not a shot was fired until the red coats were within forty yards. I heard Coffee's voice as he roared out: 'Now, men, aim for the center of the cross-belt! Fire!' A second after the order a crackling, blazing flash ran all along our line. The smoke hung so heavily in the misty morning air that I could not see what had happened. I called Tom Overton and Abner Duncan, of my staff, and we galloped toward Coffee's line. In a few seconds after the first fire came another sharp, ringing volley. As I called to the sharp and fifty yards of Coffee's line, I saw the British were within forty yards of our line. The British were falling back in a confused, disorderly mass, and the entire first ranks of their column were blown away. For two hundred yards in front of the ground was covered with a mass of writhing wounded, dead and dying soldiers. By the time the riflemen were within forty yards of our line, and on he came again. This time they were led by General Pakenham in person, gallantly mounted, and riding as though he was on parade. Just before he got within range of Coffee's line I heard a single rifle shot from a group of country carts we had been using, about 175 yards distant, and a moment thereafter I saw Pakenham and his staff fall. I saw the British have always believed he fell from a bullet of a free man of color who was a famous rifle-shot, and came from the Attakapas region of Louisiana. The second advance was precisely like the first in its ending. In five volleys the 1,500 or more riflemen killed and wounded 2,117 British soldiers, two-thirds of them killed dead or mortally wounded. I did not know when General Pakenham was lying, or I should have sent to him or gone in person, to offer any service in my power to render.

I was told he lived two hours after he was hit. His wound was directly through the liver and bowels. General Keane, I hear, was killed dead. They sent a flag to me, asking leave to gather up the bodies of the British dead, which, of course, I granted. I was told by a wounded officer that the rank and file absolutely refused to make a third charge. 'We have no chance with such shooting as these Americans do,' they said.

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